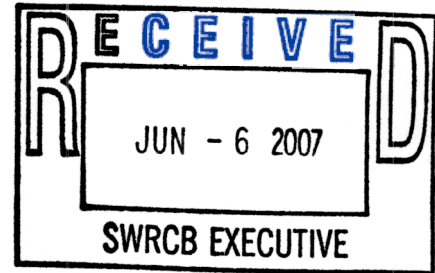


June 6, 2007

**VIA EMAIL:** [commentletters@waterboards.ca.gov](mailto:commentletters@waterboards.ca.gov)

Song Her, Clerk of the Board  
State Water Resources Control Board  
1001 I Street  
Sacramento, CA 95814



Re: Water Right Enforcement Workshop – June 19, 2007

Members of the State Water Resources Control Board:

I write to express my strong support for the State Water Resources Control Board's development of a water rights enforcement policy consistent with the principle stated in the June 19, 2007 Water Right Enforcement Workshop notice that a "predictable, consistent and fair enforcement is required to ensure compliance with water right laws." This is a common sense policy statement, and one I encourage the Board to follow.

While enforcement is obviously important to assure compliance with the law, I also respectfully suggest the Board place a high priority on processing applications in a timely fashion, especially in view of the Board's limited enforcement resources. Many of my constituents are law-abiding citizens, and unfortunately, when applying for permits have been confronted by a prolonged bureaucratic process.

As mentioned above, while I recognize the importance of an enforcement policy, I am sure the policy will be fair when violations are identified. The Board policy would be more productive if, when violations are identified, the Board help the diverter, applicant, petitioner, permittee or licensee to bring their project into compliance rather than simply issue a fine. Since many violations are minor, I believe the Board can provide guidance to correct the violation without impacting other users or the environment.

Thank you for your time and consideration. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact my Legislative Director, Lynne Jensen, at 916-319-2001.

Sincerely,

PATTY BERG  
Assemblywoman, 1<sup>st</sup> District

PB:li